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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,378	09/23/2003	Yusuke Ishihara	Q77002	9206
23373 7590 11/06/2007 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER HAUGLAND, SCOTT J	
			ART UNIT 3654	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,378

Applicant(s)

ISHIHARA, YUSUKE

Examiner

Scott Haugland

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8 and 11-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8 and 11-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the peripheral surface side of the reel hub" on lines 21-22. Claim 11 recited this language on lines 11-12 and claim 14 recites it on lines 16-17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. There is antecedent for "the inner peripheral surface side of the reel hub".

The language of claim 1, lines 21-22, claim 11, lines 11-12, and claim 14, lines 16-17 is unclear since the entire taper wall is located on the inner peripheral surface side of the reel hub (as opposed to the outer side of the hub). Since the taper wall is not disclosed as extending to the inner peripheral surface of the hub, it appears that this language is intended to require that the taper wall is continuously inclined to the radially outer edge of the taper wall.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the

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unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-16 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905 in view of either of Laverriere (EP Appl. No. 0284687 - note U.S. equivalent Pat No. 6,896,217).

Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905 include a recording tape cartridge comprising: a reel 2 which is accommodated in a case 3, gear teeth 29, a braking member 4, a braking gear 42 on one surface of the braking member, and a taper wall (guide member) 39. The taper wall is located along a circumference which has a greater diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member and which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub since the taper wall inclines from the inner surface of the reel hub (claim 2) and centers the braking member (claim 1).

Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905 do not claim that the gear teeth 29 are provided along a circumference which is substantially coaxial with a reel hub 21, that the braking member 4 is formed in a disc-shape, or that the gear teeth and taper walls are radially aligned.

Laverriere teaches providing a tape reel with a taper wall integral with a reel hub on a floor portion of the hub in radial alignment with gear teeth to align and guide a braking member 60 into engagement with gear teeth on the hub, arranging gear teeth (on 80) along a circumference which is substantially coaxial with a reel hub 66 and teaches forming a braking member 60 in a disc-shape.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to arrange the gear teeth in the cartridge claimed in claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905 in radial alignment with the taper walls and along a circumference which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub and to form the braking member in a disc-shape as taught by Laverriere to facilitate forming of the taper walls and gear teeth and so that the braking gear and hub gear teeth align properly to permit engagement regardless of the angular position of the reel.

The method recited in claims 11-16 is inherent in the manufacture of the cartridge as modified.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,462,905) in view of Laverriere (EP Appl. No. 0284687 - note U.S. equivalent Pat No. 6,896,217).

Takahashi et al discloses a recording tape cartridge comprising: a reel 2 which is accommodated in a case 3, gear teeth 29 provided along a circumference which is substantially coaxial with a reel hub 21 around which a recording tape is wound at a floor portion of the reel hub, a braking member 4 formed in a disc-shape, a braking gear 42 on one surface of the braking member, and a taper wall 39 continuously tapered from the gear teeth and standing erect at the floor portion along a circumference which has a greater diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member and which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub.

Takahashi et al does not disclose that the taper walls are radially aligned with the gear teeth.

Laverriere teaches providing a tape reel with a taper wall integral with a reel hub on a floor portion of the hub in radial alignment with gear teeth to align and guide a braking member 60 into engagement with gear teeth on the hub.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the gear teeth and taper walls of Takahashi et al radially aligned as taught by Laverriere to facilitate forming the gear teeth and taper walls.

The method recited in claims 11-16 is inherent in the manufacture of the modified cartridge of Ishikawa et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/20/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Takahashi does not disclose a taper wall standing erect at the floor portion of a hub along a circumference which has a greater diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member and which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub as recited in claim 1. However, as shown in Fig. 2 of Takahashi, for example, the taper walls 39 are located at a circumference which has a greater diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member 4. The circumference is arranged coaxially with the reel hub as can be seen in Fig. 3. The taper walls 39 stand erect at a floor portion of hub 21 (Fig. 2). Gear teeth 29 are located on a plurality of projections. The taper wall, projections, and gear teeth are all integral and unitary as indicated in the drawings. The taper walls are continuously inclined from an end of the gear teeth to a peripheral surface of the hub (Fig. 2). Laverriere discloses taper walls 70' that also function to align a braking member with gear teeth and teaches placing them in radial alignment with gear teeth.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. The new grounds of rejection were necessitated by the amendments to claims 1, 11, and 14. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Haugland whose telephone number is (571) 272-6945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sjh
sjh
11/1/07


Peter M. Cuomo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview conducted with the examiner on August 16, 2007.

Interview Summary OK During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed at great length the objection to the drawings, the Double Patenting rejection; the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

With respect to the objection to the drawings (and the related 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection), the Examiner agreed that amending claim 3 to change the term "annular" to "arc shape" would overcome the objection to the drawings and the § 112 rejection.

With respect to the Double Patenting rejection, Applicant submitted that the claimed subject matter in the instant application is patentably distinct from the subject matter in the commonly owned patents. However, the Examiner maintained his position and asserted that the claimed subject matter is an obvious variation over the claims of Takahashi and the teachings of Ishikawa. However, the Examiner recommended amending the independent claims to include the feature "wherein the tapered wall is radially aligned with the gear teeth". The Examiner stated that this amendment should be enough to overcome the Double Patenting rejection.

With respect to the prior art rejections, the Examiner firmly maintained his position as outlined in the Office Action dated April 19, 2007, but suggested that amending the independent claims to recite the feature "wherein the tapered wall is continuously inclined from an end of the gear teeth to the peripheral surface side of the reel hub" may be enough to overcome the prior art rejections